



WRITERSTALK

Volume 23
Number 11
November 2015

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™



National Novel Writing Month

Bring your pens and laptops! SBW is Hosting a Write-In For NaNoWriMo

by Jenni Everidge

Has anyone ever told you that they have always wanted to write a novel, but just didn't have the time? Have you ever put off writing for the same reason?

In 1999, a guy named Chris Baty was tired of hearing it and thinking it, so he decided to do something about it. He challenged himself to write a novel-length manuscript in one month.

How would that be possible?

He started by writing down his schedule for an entire week. How much time did he devote to reality TV, Internet surfing, or staring at the ceiling? Turns out, more than he expected. For a month, instead of wasting time doing those things, Chris Baty wrote. And since the official novel length is 50,000 words, that translates to about 1667 words per day. That's less than a six page, double-spaced paper! And he made his goal. So he shared his idea with the world, and now there are thousands of people around the globe participating each year in NaNoWriMo. Including me.

Writing a novel in 30 days.

How does South Bay Writers figure in? We all want more time to write and more people to talk about writing with, right? Building a community of writers can provide so many benefits. Writing together builds excitement. Having a common goal brings solidarity. The incessant click-clack of 50 different laptops even keeps the pace, like a competition metronome, reminding us that others are writing. So why aren't we?

I invite you all to attend this write-in with me. I will be spreading the excitement when I attend National Novel Writing Month events, and so I hope to be able to introduce you to more writers we can add to our community.

How will the South Bay Writers meeting at Harry's Hofbrau on November 14 go?

After our monthly meeting, we will run the write-in pretty simply: in lieu of a speaker, there will be time allotted for us to write with our colleagues. Whether you decide to sign up for NaNoWriMo, or wish to submit to our Writing Prompt Anthology, or if you just want to work on your current project among other writers, there will be space for you. There will be space for NaNoWriMo participants and their guests. There will even be space for those of you who wish to come and not write.

Continued on Page 6

RECAP: OCTOBER SPEAKER, JOSHUA MOHR

Plaracterization

by Karen Sundback

What makes a great story? Scintillating characters? Nonstop action? According to our October meeting speaker, Joshua Mohr, a great story is the result of the intermingling of these two: characters and plot. He calls it *plaracterization*.

Joshua Mohr is the highly acclaimed author of five books and teaches in the MFA program at the University of San Francisco. He sees plaracterization as an organic response. For example, to show that she's sad, Mohr had Bonny sitting in Dolores Park at 3 am, drinking ghetto wine. When the sprinklers come on, Bonny only stares ahead. Put out the images and let the reader interact with your characters. This image is the bridge between plot and character.



Joshua Mohr

His approach to writing is to let the characters themselves determine their own stories. Each revision makes the characters more lifelike. The protagonists reveal themselves from the story's action with plenty of hurdles. How they respond to these action bullets moves the story ahead. Mohr gave an example of a neighbor of his who was a master of martial arts.

Continued on Page 6

President's Perspective

by Patrick McQueen
President, South Bay Writers

Changes You Believe In



When Jenni and I ran for Vice President and President earlier this year, some of you expressed your excitement about the new, fresh ideas we were going to introduce to the club. Some of you felt like you were investing precious time and money into the club, but weren't seeing the return on your investment you were hoping for. We were excited to make changes that would improve your return on investment.

In my inaugural President's Address I mentioned a few of our goals for growth for this year, and I would like to point out how we have addressed each so far:

SBW-hosted writing workshops:

Our administration's first workshop is coming up on November 14th. It looks like it is going to be a profitable and beneficial first workshop. Seats are still available. You can sign up on the club's website at: southbaywriters.com/wordpress/short-fiction-writers-workshop/

More club-hosted writing competitions:

Jenni is working on developing a high school writing competition. I have launched our hosted writing prompts available on our club website at southbaywriters.com/wordpress/writing-prompts/

More member organized groups:

During the October dinner meeting, I listed our member-organized groups and invited you to set up your own if none of the existing groups fit your needs. I have repeatedly emphasized small groups as the heart of the club and maintain a passion to see more of them sprout up.

Laying the groundwork for a future writers conference:

Work on this goal has begun with our Web Site Editor locating archived information about the club's prior conferences and offering to provide links to that data on our website in order to stir excitement about this project.

In spite of having a few hurdles to overcome in our first few months in office, I believe the current leaders, including both the new and the more seasoned volunteers leading this club, have done a fabulous job. If the progress we have made in these first few months is any indication of the progress we can make over a much longer period of time, then I am eager to see what this club looks like in a year, five years, and ten years from now.

I hope, as we continue to remodel South Bay Writers, we continue to implement changes you believe in. I want to make changes that honor you. I want this club to become a valuable resource in which you proudly commit your time and energy. — WT

Flying Purity

I spot an egret
so bright white it seems to glow.
Flying purity.

— Stephen C. Wetlesen



California Writers Club
South Bay Branch
www.southbaywriters.com

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SBW Mission

Educating writers of all levels of expertise in the craft of writing and in the marketing of their work.

Join Us

We have a membership category that fits you. Dues are \$45 per year plus a one-time \$20 initiation fee. Dual membership: \$25. Contact Membership Chair, Sally Milnor, or sign up online at southbaywriters.com



WritersTalk

is the monthly newsletter of the South Bay Branch of the California Writers Club.

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Submissions

Members of the South Bay Writers Club are encouraged to submit their creative works for publication in *WritersTalk*. Please prepare your work as carefully as you would for an agent. All submissions will be copyedited. The Managing Editor decides which submissions to publish.

Submission deadline is the 15th of the month.

Suggested word limits are not absolute; shorter preferred. Electronic submissions should be text or attached MS Word file sent to newsletter@southbaywriters.com. Use Times New Roman 12-font; no tabs; no colors; no page breaks. Send graphics separately as jpg files.

Anything Goes—Almost (300 words)

News Items (400 words)

Letters to the Editor (300 words)

Creative Works

Short Fiction (1200 words)
Memoir (1200 words)
Poetry (300 words)
Essay (900 words)

Member Achievement and News:

newsletter@southbaywriters.com

Announcements and Advertisements

newsletter@southbaywriters.com

An announcement is information of interest and value to writers that does not provide direct economic benefit to its originator and is published free of charge.

Advertising of workshops, conferences, and events is accepted from other Branches of California Writers Club. Because California Writers Club is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, *WritersTalk* is not accepting advertising of events or services that benefit an individual. Also, we cannot accept political advertising of any kind.

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Our Mission

Encouraging writers at all levels of expertise to hone their skills in the craft of writing

Change of Address: Send changes of address to membership@southbaywriters.com or use MRMS

Circulation: 200

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Words from the Editor

by Marjorie Bicknell Johnson
Managing Editor



You have 10 seconds—

How often do you feel that someone isn't listening to you? Mark Waldman and Andrew Newberg, MD, authors of *Words Can Change Your Brain*, say the problem is simple: you're using too many words!

On average, most people speak two minutes before pausing, but the brain can hold only about 10 words in "working memory" for about 10 seconds. They say this means that the other person will only remember one-tenth of what you said, and often that isn't the important part of what you wanted to convey. Waldman and Newberg share their research in several articles at PsychologyToday.com.

According to Google, conversation is often at 100 words per minute; I didn't find their mathematical connection, but no matter. The point is, when you factor in that the other person often is concentrating on what he wants to say, it's amazing that we communicate at all.

I came across this "10 second working memory" in a free pamphlet, *Science of Mind: A Guide for Spiritual Living*. When stranded in a waiting room for long enough, I'll read anything. But, I realized that some of this could be applied to writing (as well as to my editorial):

- Break up dialogue into short, digestible statements combined with actions.
- Don't let your character give a speech in a novel. White space on the page rests the reader's eyes and makes the read more inviting.
- Nonstop speakers, fictional or flesh and blood, wear out their listeners.
- Read slowly and clearly at open mic, lest your audience tune you out.
- Pauses are important, too; make eye contact and engage the listener. And you get a new ten seconds.
- You need a short, punchy answer to the question: what is your book about? That is, if you want to communicate with an agent or a potential reader.

As to the ten seconds, my lectures to a trigonometry class tended to be somewhat longer. The words "a quiz tomorrow" worked wonders. —WT

Words on formatting: Do you want others to read your work? If so, then read and apply submission instructions for your target contest or market. If your work doesn't look professional, you won't win and the agent won't read it. Read my article on page 6.

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New Members

by Sally A. Milnor

I am pleased to introduce our two newest members.



Karen Conley found us online. Karen's primary area of interest is in writing poetry.

Joyce Gavino joined our Club at the October meeting. She writes novels, short stories,

and poetry. In addition to her writing, she enjoys sewing, singing, bicycling, and hiking. Joyce has written three children's books and is working on a novel.

We wish both of you a warm welcome, and we hope your membership brings you inspiration and enjoyment. Thank you for joining our Club. --WT

CWC Advertising

by Bob Isbill, High Desert CB Rep

For the first time ever, California Writers Club will be publishing *The Bulletin* with advertising. We are making that advertising available to businesses, CWC members, and individuals who wish to reach our target market at reasonable prices.

CWC is offering business card size ads for \$35; they will be placed in the index section of *The Bulletin*. Larger 3 by 5 inch ads will be offered for \$60. Check calwriters.org for details.

CWC intends to publish *The Bulletin* three times a year with our rollout first e-edition scheduled for mid-November 2015. Deadline for advertising submissions for the November issue was October 30. If you missed that, submit for the next issue.

All ads submitted must be print-ready and emailed as jpegs to RustyLaGrange23@gmail.com. Also mail a physical copy of your ad with the payment. Please include your return address, telephone contact number, and preferred email address.

Space is limited and ads will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. A copy of *The Bulletin* will be emailed to advertisers upon publication.

Checks or money orders **made payable to CWC** for submitted ads must be mailed to: HDCWC, **Bulletin Advertising Dept.**, 20258 Hwy 18, STE 430 PMB 281, Apple Valley, CA 92307. --WT

View From the Board

by Sheena Arora



Sheena Arora
Contributing Editor

On Wednesday, October 7, twelve South Bay Writers board members met in Santa Clara: President Patrick McQueen, Vice President Jenni Everidge, Secretary Sherrie Johnson, Treasurer Bill Baldwin, Members-at-Large Robyn King and Sheena Arora, Hospitality Chair Carole Taub, Publicity Chair Kimberly Malanczuk, Newsletter Editor Marjorie Johnson, and Membership Chair Sally Milnor. Carolyn Donnell, along with President of CWC Berkeley Branch Kimberly Ingalls, also participated.

We are preparing for the November 14 workshop by author Michael Bracken, who will present how to write short fiction for fun and profit.

The SBW board is glad to endorse a scholarship donated by an anonymous member towards the registration fee for the November workshop. We asked SBW members to write an essay answering the question: "Why do you want to attend the workshop?" Congratulations to student member Chelsea Cheng for winning the scholarship. Her winning essay is on this page.

November is National Novel Writing Month. SBW will not host a guest speaker. Instead, on November 9, we will host a write-in promoting the NaNoWriMo event sponsored by the Office of Letters. At that meeting, guests will pay the SBW member dinner price.

South Bay Writers, represented by Vice-President Jenni Everidge, will participate in the San Francisco Writers Conference. Our club is seeking quotes from current SBW members. For your quotes, contact Jenni, either in-person or email her at vp@southbaywriters.com.

The Holidays are just around the corner. SBW will hold a holiday potluck party for our members and their guests at the home of Hospitality Chair Carole Taub.

At last, we met a new face. Not only did our guest show us the path but also she fed us pumpkin muffins! We are not seeking delicacies; we desire your involvement. If you have something to tell us, or if you just want to say hello, find us during Monday's meeting at Harry's Hofbrau. SBW board members are the ones always smiling. --WT

November 14 Workshop Scholarship Winner: Chelsea Cheng

SBW student member Chelsea Cheng is the winner of our first-ever South Bay Writers writing scholarship. She will attend Michael Bracken's short story workshop on November 14 as our guest. Chelsea had this to say about the workshop:

I've always loved creative writing and this workshop is a rare and perfect opportunity for me to glean new knowledge on writing short fiction. I wish to explore various techniques, sharpen my skills, and perhaps even find new styles by working with a published author and editor. Part of why I find short stories so appealing is that they're able to convey the complexity of human thoughts and leave a lasting impression in so little words, being succinct and ambiguous all at once. I've much to learn in writing short fiction and would be extremely happy to attend this workshop. Thank you! --Chelsea Cheng, Senior at Palo Alto High School. --WT

Literary Review

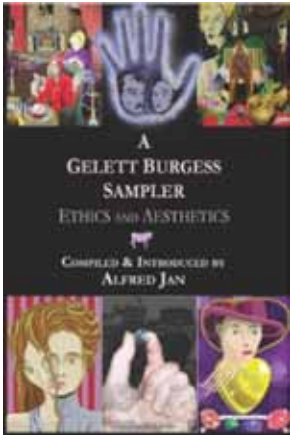
by David George, President, CWC Central Board

Members of South Bay Writers received the latest edition of the *CWC Literary Review* in October. Sadly, costs are rising. Beginning with the next issue, \$10 must accompany each submission of up to two pieces sent at the same time. Find submission guidelines and payment details on the California Writers Club website, www.calwriters.org. The deadline is November 30. We look forward to reviewing your fine writing. --WT

Book Announcements

A Gelett Burgess Sampler

Alfred Jan announces his Burgess book, *A Gelett Burgess Sampler: Ethics and Aesthetics*, compiled and Introduced by Alfred Jan, Surinam Turtle Press, 2012.



Who coined the word “blurb,” published a short story in 1905 which anticipated the 1980s movie *Ghost Busters*, and was responsible for Picasso getting his first solo exhibition in America? Gelett Burgess, a truly remarkable Renaissance man, started out as a civil engineer and became a West Coast bohemian who responded to the European Decadent movement with nonsense poetry. This sampler includes his aesthetics and ethics writings concerning issues such as the nature of humor, the function of art, gender relations, and the basis of sympathy. The collection functions as capstone to Surinam Turtle Press’ extensive reprints of Burgess’ novels. Yes, he was a novelist, short story writer, cartoonist, furniture designer, and visual artist who exhibited at Alfred Steiglitz’s 291 Gallery the same month as Picasso.

Rend the Dark

by Mark Gelineau and Joe King

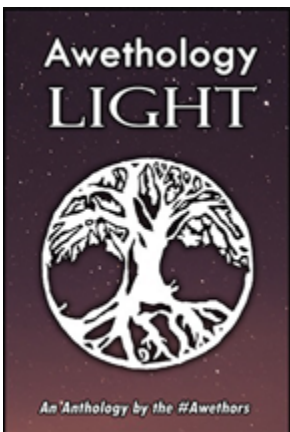


Mark Gelineau and Joe King announce that their second novella, *Rend the Dark*, is available on Amazon. Their website is gelineauandking.com.

The great Ruins are gone. All banished to the Dark and nearly forgotten. But the cunning ones remain. They hide not in the cracks of the earth or in the shadows of the world. But inside us. Wearing our skin. Waiting. Watching.

Once haunted by visions of the world beyond, Ferran now wields that power to hunt the very monsters that he once feared. Others bear the same terrible burden. But hunter or hunted, it makes no difference. Eventually, everything returns to the Dark.

Awethology Light



Chess Desalls’ story “Queen of the Small Seas” released on October 18 as part of *Awethology Light*, a two-volume anthology of fiction and poetry. Both books are free on Amazon. Chess functioned as a contributor and editor.

In “Queen of the Small Seas,” a baby from an enchanted island gets stolen by pirates. Sixteen years later, she discovers that the ruffians who’d raised her hadn’t been the first to take her away from her family and the life she was meant to lead.

Blogs: Expand Your Literary Reach

SBW TalkBooks

by Linda Judd

September’s book club reading choice was *The New Orleans Way* by Liz Newman. In this article we’ll see how sharing a blog post will benefit more than just the person who wrote the post.

TalkBooks’ interview of Newman is now posted on Chess Desalls’ blog: chessdesalls.wordpress.com/2015/10/15/sbw-talkbooks-interview-of-liz-newman/

Desalls invites you to feel free to cut and paste this interview onto your own blog. If you need the html to pull in the graphics, let her know and she’ll send it to you.

This is the TalkBooks club’s interview of the author of the monthly group-read book choice. Feel free to use the interview to help direct traffic to your blogs. The article might catch someone’s eye and those eyes may end up spending time looking at other content on your blog to learn more about you and your writing. Or, maybe the reader will want to know more about our book club or South Bay Writers. To quote Desalls, “Endless possibilities, friends.”

The more that we share, tweet and like each other’s blog posts, the sooner we’ll grow a wider audience of followers, readers, and club members who will further our literary reach.

Let TalkBooks know if you want your book to be read. Valerie Frankel and Mark Gelineau responded to our call to action and will be interviewed on 10/28 and 11/25, respectively. We’ll be reading Frankel’s *A Girl’s Guide to the Heroine’s Journey* and Gelineau’s *A Reaper of Stone*.

Note: TalkBooks meetings have a new location. The Sycamore Room, Santa Clara Library, 2635 Homestead Road, Santa Clara, has been reserved for our next meetings on 10/28 and 11/25 from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. That’s only 75 minutes: please be punctual. —WT

See second article on blogs on Page 8.

Sack Dance

Brown bag in wind –
traffic drives over plastic.
Sack dance continues.

– Stephen C. Wetlesen

NaNoWriMo Write-In

Continued from Page 1

There also will be space for those of you who want to talk with other writers in your genre, and those of you who aren't sure and just want to check out if there's anything to win.

Which there is! We will have *writerly* door prizes and will hand them out toward the end of the meeting, so you can take a souvenir of this new writing experience home with you.

Lastly, we are proud to be working in collaboration with another nonprofit. National Novel Writing Month runs solely on donations. South Bay Writers will be donating \$5 of every member and nonmember ticket to their cause.

I can't tell you how excited I am to give you all a chance to write together, with potential new members and old friends alike. We will discover how little time we actually need to create something worthwhile.

For more about NaNoWriMo, visit nanowrimo.org. Check out our writing prompts at southbaywriters.com by clicking on "writing prompts." –WT

Formatting Your Manuscript

by Marjorie Johnson

Open Word or Text and just start typing, using the program's default settings. At the end of each paragraph, hit the ENTER/RETURN key. The cursor will automatically move to start the next line of text, thus starting the next paragraph. When you've finished, correct your typing errors and save the document. Attach it to an email and send it to *WritersTalk* using this address: newsletter@southbaywriters.com.

Do not...

- Hit the ENTER/RETURN key at the end of a line of text, even if you've just ended a sentence with a period (unless you are writing a poem). That's a habit left over from the dark ages, when we had typewriters.
- Hit the TAB key to indent a line of text. Doing so forces the editor to delete every tab you set. Take care, lest the WT Editor send a *genii* to disable your TAB key.
- Press the spacebar repeatedly to indent the first line of text in a paragraph or to make it "look nice." The WT Editor must delete all those extra spaces.
- Use more than one font. (Use only the software's default font.)
- Use colors, headers or footers, or insert page breaks.
- Insert graphics, tables, or columns. (Send graphics as jpgs.)
- Copy and paste a sentence, link, or URL from the Internet. It may look perfectly normal to you, but the metadata attached to these items will ALWAYS show up. The WT Editor's computer recognizes your cut-and-pastes as alien script.

All of the above techniques may make your work look cool to you, but the WT Editor's computer will growl. Too loud a growl and the manuscript will retreat in fear and hide in the TRASH.

Plaracterization

Continued from Page 1

How would his neighbor react if he found himself in an armed robbery at a liquor store? At the sight of a gun, would he fight back or cringe? If he cringed, what now? Does he react by hanging out at liquor stores, looking for more robberies so that he can redeem himself, or does he drop martial arts altogether? The answer depends upon the character that you've created.

Mohr also suggested tossing in the unexpected, turning your readers into detectives. For example, Roger starts his day by throwing coffee at a homeless man who asks for



Speaker Joshua Mohr

– Photo by Carolyn Donnell

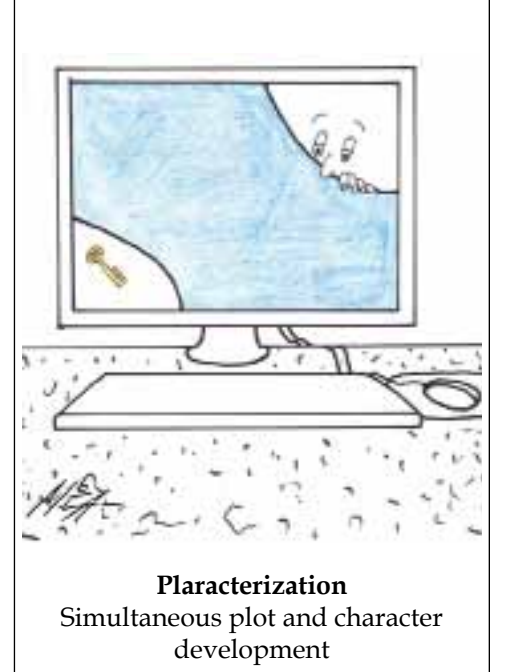
money. When he gets to work, he finds out that his secretary has been diagnosed with cancer and he pulls together a fundraiser for him. Reveal both the strengths and weaknesses of your character. Characters needn't be likeable, but they need to be relatable.

When you write, shake the petri dish. Identify the one thing that your protagonist can't live without and take it away.

During audience question time, Mohr brought up his philosophy that writing needn't take hours at a time. If you have only 10 or 15 minutes a day, then write 10 to 15 minutes each day.

Joshua Mohr can be tweeted at [Joshua Mohr](https://twitter.com/JoshuaMohr); his Facebook page is "Joshua Mohr." –WT

Shelf Life –Maddie McEwen



Continued on Page 10

South Bay Writers Present

WRITERS WORKSHOP

Write Short Fiction For Fun & Profit With Michael Bracken

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

8:30 AM – 4 PM

Includes Breakfast, Lunch, Afternoon Refreshments

Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Ave., San Jose

- Generate story ideas & turn them into workable plots
- Create compelling opening scenes
- Understand proper chronology of sentences, paragraphs, scenes
- Master scene construction, dialog, description
- Comprehend Chekov's shotgun and the rule of three
- Use and properly place dialog tags
- Employ writing tips and tricks you never learned in creative writing class
- Violate the "rules" other workshop leaders taught you
- Wrap up everything into finished, submittable manuscripts
- Establish and maintain productivity



Michael Bracken

Michael Bracken is a fulltime writer and editor who regularly leads writing workshops. He is the author of 11 books and is the two-time Derringer Award-winning author of more than 1,100 short stories appearing in anthologies and literary, small press, and commercial publications worldwide. He is also the editor of five crime fiction anthologies, including the three-volume *Fedora* series.

Read about Michael at www.CrimeFictionWriter.com

AGENDA

Saturday, November 14

- 8:30 am Registration
& Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 am Workshop
- 10:45 am Break (10 min)
- Noon Working Lunch
- 1:00 pm Workshop
- 2:15 pm Break & Refreshments (10 min)
- 3:30 pm Meet the Author
& Book Signing
- 4:00 pm Close

PRICE

EARLY BIRD (By 11.13)

CWC Member	\$60
Nonmember	\$75
Students with ID	\$30

Day of Workshop (11.14)

CWC Member	\$65
Nonmember	\$80
Students with ID	\$30

PAYMENT

Pay online with PayPal at:

www.southbaywriters.com

or

Mail check as follows:

Payable to South Bay Writers

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SANTA CLARA, CA 95055

Note: With your check, include
your name, address,
phone, and email



SBW Halloween Literary Costumes

Left to right: Jenni Everidge, Greg Brusstar, Patrick McQueen, Edie Matthews, Woody Horn, Pat Bustamante.
 –Photo by Dick Amyx

SBW Halloween Literary Costume Contest

by Sheena Arora

Happy Halloween! We had our annual SBW Halloween literary costume contest. Around twenty people dressed in literary costumes, ranging from Tim Burton to writers who dressed as their own fictional characters. Carolyn had the ingenious idea to dress as herself. We had a slightly shorter, older version of Jack Reacher; a thinner Sherlock Holmes; and a character who was “The Fear of All Writers” and every author’s nightmare. SBW President Patrick McQueen participated, dressed as Jack London.

Don’t dismay if you couldn’t attend. Browse the photos by Carolyn Donnell at southbaywriters.com, Events tab, Events Gallery, or visit southbaywritersgallery.shutterfly.com/

Every costume was a winner; yet, these are the official winners as selected by the SBW president and SBW club members.

- Funniest: Greg Brusstar as Hunter S. Thompson;
- Most literary: Edie Matthews as Gertrude Stein;
- Most obscure: Woody Forrest Horn as Frank Buck;
- Scariest: Pat Bustamante as “The Fear of All Writers.” – WT

Member News

WritersTalk Staff

The trailer film to **Chris Hennessy’s** upcoming memoir *Touched By Hannah* recently won an award at the IndieFest Global Film Competition. See his video at [youtube.com/watch?v=oynfXpI-wCk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oynfXpI-wCk)

Maddy McEwen-Asker’s short story, “James’ Miserable End,” will be published in the summer 2016 issue of *Thema*. Her Halloween story, “Flip Side Forever,” appeared in *Fable Online* on October 31; it took her a whole year to place it!

Louise Webb was honored recently when two of her memoirs, “You Can Do It!” and “It’s the Inner Beauty That Counts,” were published in *My Life, My Story, Vintage Wit and Wisdom*, a book of inspiring stories collected by Danni Burton.

Steve Wetlesen writes, “Imagine my surprise when the conductor of a local chamber music orchestra commissioned me for a poetic art piece, a cycle of multiple haiku for their coming gala event in January. They plan to frame it like a painting and auction it off as a fundraiser.

Posts: SBW Authors

by Linda Judd

Featured: R. L. King

Book: *Stone and a Hard Place*, the first book in the Alastair Stone Chronicles series.

Blog: ChessDesalls.wordpress.com/interviews/

Interview Excerpt: Alastair Stone, your Mage, practices magic on par with Harry Potter and the wizards at Hogwarts. How did you learn about the magic used in your book?

“Harry Potter was not my inspiration. I made up the magic system used in the book while I built Alastair Stone’s paranormal world. People tell me that my books remind them a little of the *Dresden Files*, which is funny because I hadn’t read any of those books until after I wrote two in my own series. I’ve since read them and I love them.”

What are your thoughts on publishing?

“The more I found out about traditional publishing, the more I knew I wanted to have final control. I am self-published but I use professionals’ services to help me make the best book I can: good editor, good cover design. I used CreateSpace for my paperbacks, and everything went way better than I expected. Most of my sales are in ebook format, through Amazon.”

Read more online. – WT

Shelf Life –Maddie McEwen



“Better hurry up and finish your memoir, Cranberry.”

David Zeltzer’s six poems: “the driver,” “sonata: the outer planets,” “hexagram: the music lesson,” “close my stray trance,” “you told me never,” and “the ancient wheelchair gang” were published in *Ut Poetry* on Tumbler. – WT

Wan Dolla, Wan Dolla

by Judith Shernock

Fifteen years ago, I was a working psychotherapist. On a late Friday afternoon I opened the door to the waiting room and greeted the last clients of the day. Mike was sprawled on a chair, barefoot, wearing old cargo pants and a 'wife-beater' T-shirt (the type with no sleeves and a very low neck). His wife Marsha, petite, precise and pretty, was sitting as far away from her husband as she possibly could.

They entered the office and commenced their never-ending battles over his slovenliness and her overspending. As the session ended Marsha flounced out, yelling over her shoulder, "It's your turn to pay."

Mike blushed and said, "I'll bring you a check on Monday."

"I'll be in on vacation for the next month," I told him.

Mike ruffled through the many pockets of his cargo pants and came up empty except for one crumpled dollar. "This is a down payment. I'll put a check in the mail. Have a good vacation." He smiled shyly and rushed after his wife.

I stuffed the bill into my wallet, locked the office and thought joyfully, I'm away to China for the next month. The long awaited trip is finally coming true.

China was as fascinating as I had expected. From the Great Wall to the weeks' trip on the Yangtze River, our group experienced never-ending wonders. One of the most phenomenal sights was the football field sized collection of life sized terra cotta soldiers, horses, chariots and weapons in Xian. They had been buried there since the second century BCE to protect the Emperor Qun Shu Huang in his afterlife.

Previous emperors had buried live soldiers and horses to protect them, but this ruler had his craftsmen create exact replicas of his 8,000 men and their equipment. Thousands of artisans had worked on the project for years, starting when the emperor was thirteen. These huge fields of statues, so life-like that they took your breath away, were first uncovered in 1974. They brought astonishment and wonder to the faces of everyone who saw them. Innumerable tourists, from all over the world, flocked to Xian to stare and marvel.

This was the first, but not the last, bus stop where we were all but besieged by groups of skinny, gray-haired old women waving post cards at us. They were shouting, "Wan dolla, wan dolla!" as if their lives depended on it. We asked our guide, Mei-Hua, about this strange custom.

"China has advanced in many ways but there is no social security for the elderly. You know of the one child policy?"

We nodded. We knew about it.

"Well, if your child was a girl and she got married, all her loyalty is transferred to her husband's family with whom the couple usually lives. That leaves the girl's parents with no one to care for them in their old age. These women are given old postcards to sell to tourists to eke out a living."

Before we had left for our vacation, the tour office had suggested we bring only one credit card and the rest of our money in traveler's checks. Cash was not advised. Thus the only paper money I carried was that one dollar bill from Mike.

I held onto it through numerous groups of hungry old ladies yelling, "Wan dolla! Wan dolla!" Then one day after we visited a silk factory, one of the women, more round faced than the others, locked her almond eyes onto mine. Mesmerized, I followed her a few steps away, behind a wall. There she opened a large cardboard box filled with shimmering silk tablecloths.

"One dollar?" I asked hopefully.

She shook her head and held up two fingers.

Feeling bad I shook my head and said, "One dollar." I began to walk to the bus.

She came after me, shrugged her shoulders, and said, "Okay lady, one dollar."

I handed her Mike's down payment and she gave me an embroidered blue silk

One Dollar

by Patrick McQueen

South Bay Writers is hosting writing prompts on our website at southbaywriters.com/wordpress/writing-prompts/

Our goal is to collect submissions from any of the more than 1800 members of the California Writers Club. (South Bay Writers is one of twenty-one branches of the California Writers Club). With enough entries to fill a novel-sized book, we hope to publish the best of the submissions in an anthology. The following story is a wonderful example of the kind of entry we are looking for in response to our first prompt: One Dollar. I invite you to enjoy this story and hope it inspires your own creative contribution to the prompt. — WT

Shelf Life — Maddie McEwen



When Cecil reached page 972, he realized he hadn't figured out a plot.

table cover. Proud of myself, I murmured in Mandarin, "Shi shi."

Bowing slightly, she answered in perfect English, "You are welcome."

Today, whenever I use that tablecloth, visions of gray, skinny ladies surround me. On their faces hope is vying with desperation. They're waving postcards and yelling, "Wan dolla, wan dolla." I wanted to help all of them but Mike's money refused to multiply.

On that trip the realization came that China is very, very ancient and change comes slowly, sometimes for the better, but not always. — WT

flute à champagne

it's all gold, darling
chandeliers, pillars,
ball gown hems across the floor

glitter dusting bare shoulders
painted over fluttering lids
effervescent wine—

it's all gold! and we're drunk
wonderfully, fashionably drunk
a haze of aureate delirium

care for a champagne?
the waiter is a blur,
a flash of smile, black of tuxedo

seamless curves and angles
slender, vitreous stem
i hold as i would a thornless rose

ebullient chatters,
clinks of glass drifting atop
notes wrung from violins in some corner

it's all gold—
a scream, rills of champagne on marble floors,
hisses beneath stilettos, washing over shattered glass

a gentleman holds a broken flute
crimson blossoms on another's forehead
crystal shards in chestnut hair

i danced with both of them, i think,
but now the music has stopped
no, no—let it stay gold

— Chelsea Cheng



Formatting Your Manuscript

Continued from Page 6

Do...

- Read your submission once more. Give it a thorough pass and cast out any typos that may have snuck in.
- Put your full name on the byline. If your email is abcxyz@yahoo.com, the editor won't know who you are.

Special problems: You work in something other than Word or Text. Then send a PDF; a PDF document can usually be translated to Word—if you used “plain vanilla” text: no special characters, tabs, extra spaces, graphics or tables.

What about poetry? Just type it left justified. Use ENTER/RETURN after each line; hit ENTER/RETURN an extra time after each stanza. If you want the poem to be centered, the WT Editor can center the whole thing.

SBW Officers and Chairpersons: Make your documents single-spaced, without page breaks, and proofread before sending. Remember that the SBW Secretary adds your report to the minutes to put into a permanent file.

Entering a contest or sending to an agent? Then you need to study their formatting directions. If you ignore their special instructions, expect a rejection. But take heart. If you have followed the elementary formatting procedures in this article, you will be able to use “select all” and make your manuscript exactly right. —WT



She Waited

Empty the days
Nights alone

Love that grips the
heartstrings
Leads the way

What time we had
Lies still evermore

He served
She waited

— Karen Franzenburg

The Halloween Pumpkin

When are we throwing the pumpkin away?
It's getting too scary, I think.
It once had a wonderful toothful grin,
But now the face is just caving right in,
And the thing's really starting to stink!

— E Michael Lunsford



Impressions

Hoods hide in the night
Chains that hang spray the site

Speak the voice
Sounds from a can
Now they know who I am

Seek to shine
Make a mark
On a freeway sign

In the dark

— Karen Franzenburg

Thank You for Being You

Sensitive to me
Giving and not giving freely
Allows me the freedom to ask
Knowing you know
You can say NO, or YES

— ArLyne Diamond

Bones

I broke my elbow
Can't write like I always do
Thankful I will heal

— Karen Hartley

November Terse on Verse

by Pat Bustamante

November, No Vendor?



Pat Bustamante
Contributing Editor

The Winter Blues rack me;
Sales missed, while contests attack me.
A rejection still hurts
So self-pity from my poor heart spurts.
Take care to keep spirits up.
Don't give in. Drink that near cup
Of fear? No! You've got to stay "optimist."
Send again to next-on-list;
Never give in.
Oops! Here's a letter, maybe says I win!

– Pat Bustamante

Do you have a self-published book? I have three. One a book of poems; another now missing from the Internet, its first title *A Book Of The Dead*, its title snatched up by a well-known popular fiction author. (My book is now titled *Basically Murder*.) Number three was a school textbook I co-authored for the Mexican-American child. I've not yet renewed any of the books.

I will only beat on prominent publishers' doors now. First I have to perfect my manuscripts. I am convinced that a good salesperson I AM NOT. But a writer? Yes, and I will put all my energy into that. Even if I never get a serious publisher interested, I will have enjoyed the creativity. All of you who are pushing sales of a self-published book, I admire you; I respect your bravery, but I know I cannot attempt that again.

Keep sending out poems, or anything else you write, even if you are dedicated to printing your own work and then marketing it. There are many magazines and journals sent out nationally: some pay, some don't. I have to admit to being a very vain person when I see my name in print, listed as author of "whatever." (WHATEVER might be the title of my next novel.) I wish you much joy in your creativity. Your enthusiasm cures me of my blues! – WT

Mother*

Your face
pinched with worry
or warm with pain.
You can't take my truth from me
no matter how hard you stare.

– Jenni Everidge

Path*

Your step hesitates,
foot flexing, eyes moist
as you stare ahead at the road,
molten lava dreams of mine
pooling in your path.

– Jenni Everidge

Cup*

Half full, half empty
The cup sits unattended
Why not fill it up

– Carolyn Donnell

9/14/15

Speaker Dr. Elaine Brady inspired many poems, including some spontaneous poems written at the SBW meeting.

**Poem inspired by Elaine Brady

*Poem written on 9/14/15



An ekphrastic poem: Ekphrasis is a literary description of or commentary on a visual work of art—in this case, a musical score: "Peter and the Wolf: Op. 67" by Sergei Prokofiev, narrated by David Bowie.

Peter and the Wolf**

Writing against the clock
gnaws at creative pondering
Catch-22
for a pied piper of words
until David Bowie
in his best Ziggy voice
intuits an image to me
of a winged Flute
flitting above Peter
while Wolf howls
crocodile tears
tick-tock, tick-tock
and Dragon glides closer
chomping at the bit to play
hide-and-seek with Duck
in the murky leagues
of Loch Ness.

"Where is Clarinet?" Sergei inquires.

"I wrote-in a cat, a Bolshevik cat,
not a Highland dragon!"

Dragon purrs, "Meow."

– Leslie E. Hoffman

Commodities**

You won't be successful
they say you can't
get published and known
unless you have money
dollars to throw
at the editors
who could be predators
(deliberately misspelled)
and painters of pictures
to catch the eye
before one word
of the story you slaved
over is even read.
Designers to format the words
into boxes that fit their normal
world. And add to that
media, the circus of ads
which even if free
eat away at your time
like a rough sea wave
eroding the foundation
from under your writing
the words that once
meant so much
now just commodities
to be bought and sold

– Carolyn Donnell



Tiny Compassion

Childhood killing jar –
gas chamber for butterflies.

I could not do it.

– Stephen C. Wetlesen

The Literary Nest

by Pratibha Kelapure, Editor

The Literary Nest is an online magazine of literary fiction, poetry, and visual arts. I invite all of you to submit to the next issue to be released in January, 2016. Go to theliterarynest.com for submission guidelines. While you are there, check out the previous issues. We seek work that is edgy and pushes the boundaries. We appreciate and favor understated elegance in writing. – WT

NaNoWriMo

November is National Novel Writing Month. The annual NaNoWriMo writing project attracts writers from all over the world. Challenge: Write 50,000 words in 30 days. Are you ready? Sign up on October 31; contest starts at 12:01 a.m. on November 1. Read about it at nanowrimo.org – WT

Off the Shelf

– Edie Matthews



I told you, Nathaniel Hawthorne is a bad influence.

Where to Publish Flash Fiction

Flash fiction is growing in popularity. It's an ideal length to read online, so many websites and literary journals are now devoted exclusively to flash. Flash fiction anthologies are published every year. Contests often feature short fiction, and it's perfect for *WritersTalk* as well.

The following markets for flash fiction were listed in "Flash Dance" by Grant Faulkner, *Writer's Digest*, May/June 2015.

- 100 Word Story: 100wordstory.org
- Six-Words: sixwordmemoirs.com
- MonkeyBicycle: monkeybicycle.net/one-sentence-stories
- Nano Fiction (stories up to 300 words): nanofiction.org
- Smokelong: smokelong.com
- Eclectica Magazine: eclectica.org
- The Collagist: thecollagist.com
- PANK: pankmagazine.com
- Word Riot: wordriot.org
- Fiction Southeast: fictionsoutheast.org

In addition, The Market List (marketlist.com) has extensive, regularly updated market listings for fiction, including magazines, books publishers, agents, writing contests and websites. – WT

More contests

2016 Next Generation Indie Book Awards

Indie book authors and publishers who have a book in English released in 2014, 2015 or 2016 with a 2014, 2015 or 2016 copyright date. Over 70 categories and more than 70 Awards with 70 monetary prizes totaling more than \$10,000. Entry Deadline for the 2016 awards program, February 12, 2016. www.indiebookawards.com

Women's National Book Association

2015-16 Writing Contest

Submit between September 15, 2015, and January 15, 2016.

- FICTION: Short fiction, novel excerpts, flash fiction; 3,000 words max.
- NONFICTION: Memoir, personal essay, commentary. 2,500 words max.
- POETRY: 3 – 5 pages

Winner announced May 1, 2016; winning entries published in *Bookwoman*, the official publication of the Women's National Book Association. Member submission, \$15; nonmember \$20. See more at wnba.submittable.com/submit

The Hudson Review

The Hudson Review is sponsoring a short fiction contest open to all. Deadline extended to 11/30/15. First prize \$500, second and third \$250. Winning stories published in *The Hudson Review*. All entries will be considered for publication and payment at our regular rates. Submit an original piece of unpublished fiction (no more than 10,000 words) online at www.hudsonreview.com/submissions, or mail to The Hudson Review, 33 West 67th Street, New York, NY 10023. Read full rules online and include SASE. – WT

Contests and Markets

by Carolyn Donnell



Carolyn Donnell
Contributing Editor

Now for something really different

Play on Words San Jose: Submissions deadline 12/1/15. Their next show will be Wednesday, January 6, at San Jose's Cafe Stritch. They need solid content to produce. Send 5 to 10 minute plays; fiction and nonfiction under 2000 words; poetry. If you have something that fits their bill, email it as an attachment to playonwordssj@gmail.com. More at playonwordssj.wordpress.com

Story Houston

"Story|Houston was founded to encourage and support developing writers in the Houston area and beyond." I ran across this and even though I am from Houston, I thought California is "beyond," isn't it? Take a look and see if it interests you. The online journal, published quarterly, is now accepting submissions for the Fall/Winter issue for original and unpublished short fiction and creative nonfiction. 1,000 to 6,000 words. No flash fiction. No fee. \$200 per published story.

Freedom With Writing is a website that posts various opportunities with multiple publications for articles, essays, short stories, and tutorials. freedomwithwriting.com/freedom

Sci/Fi, Fantasy or Dark Fantasy? Quarterly contest. For new and amateur writers. Prizes \$1,000, \$750, and \$500 and Grand Prize, \$5,000. Enter online or via snail mail. Details at writersofthefuture.com/Contest-Rules-Writers/

Blue Mountains Arts biannual poetry card contest. Deadline:12/31/15. 1st prize: \$300, 2nd: \$150, 3rd: \$50. It's open worldwide and they prefer non-rhyming poetry. Enter at sps.com/poetry/index.html or via snail mail to Blue Mountain Arts Poetry Card Contest, P.O. Box 1007, Dept. E, Boulder, CO 80306.

If you hear about an intriguing contest, market, or event, please share at newsletter@southbaywriters.com. **See more markets on Page 14.** — WT

Chop Chop

by Wanda Sue Parrott, Founder
Amy Kitchener's Angels Without Wings Foundation

My muse Amy Kitchener appeared, inspiring me to create a three-line poetic form called the Chinese Couplet. I said, "A couplet is two rhyming lines."

Amy Kitchener and Ann Parker both replied, "Chop chop," which means yes.

I got the idea: two lines rhyme, with a third line using the words chop chop anywhere in the poem. Since chop chop is only two words, the other two lines must also be two rhyming words each. To sustain the chop chop cadence, they must be single-syllable words. Complicating this arrangement of six words into three lines is the caveat from the muse: The three lines must tell a story, the reader's imagination filling in for descriptive words and action phrases that are missing.

Impossible? Nah!! I introduced the challenge to the Springfield Writers Guild; Sleuths' Ink Mystery Writers; and Missouri Poets & Friends in Springfield, MO. I invented the actual format and Ann Parker served as the contest's Chop Chop judge. Now my muse has ordered us to immortalize the Chinese Couplet. So, care to join us?

Chop Chop: Re-introducing the Chinese Couplet Contest.

How to write a Chinese couplet: Write a three-line, six-word poem that implies a storylet or playlet in three acts. Line 1 introduces a problem or challenge; Line 2 describes drama/action taken to solve it; and Line 3 gives the resolution/solution.

One free-floating line (chop chop) must appear in the poem and be relevant; the other two lines must be comprised of two single-syllable-word internally rhyming

WRITERSTALK Challenge

What is it?

Twice a year, in February and August, awards are given to contributors to *WritersTalk*. You need take no special steps to enter this competition; if your piece in one of the designated genres is published in *WritersTalk*, you are a contestant in the Challenge.*

Genres

Fiction, 500 - 1200 words
Memoir, 500 - 1200 words
Essay/Nonfiction, 500 - 900 words
Poetry/Haiku

Judging Periods

January 16 through July 15
July 16 through January 15

Prizes

One winner will be selected from each of the eligible genres. Each winner will be awarded a cash prize of \$40.

Judging

Judging will be done by *WritersTalk* contributing editors and other Club members whom the contributing editors may ask to assist. Judges will not judge a genre in which their work currently appears.

* Eligibility for the *WritersTalk* Challenge is limited to members of the South Bay Branch of the California Writers Club. — WT

lines. No titles or punctuation allowed. Use of capitals is optional.

Deadline: 11/15/15. Winners announced in December. Entry Fee: \$5/page. Fill one side of a page with 1 to 10 Chinese couplets. Place your name and contact information in the upper right corner of each page. No email submissions. Make check to Wanda Sue Parrott. Enclose #10 self-addressed stamped envelope and send with entries to Wanda's Chop Chop Contest, Box 1821, Monterey, CA 93942. — WT

Knife wife
chop chop
me free

Chop chop
wake snake
jump stump

Beta Reader Listing

You have finished a writing project. It's had the benefit of critique and careful copy editing. But is it a good read?

Your Beta reader finds story distortion and missing or excessive passages. He looks for that certain appeal that keeps readers turning the pages. The Beta reader does not copyedit—his only interest is story.

To be listed here, send your interest in participation in an email to newsletter@southbaywriters.com

Members willing to read:

David Strom: anything
dave.strom@gmail.com

Dick Yaeger: Fiction, no poetry
dyaeger@aol.com

Jenni Everidge: Fiction
everidge.jenni@gmail.com

Mike Freda: anything; fiction preferred
freda.mike@gmail.com

Patrick McQueen: any genre
droidpat@gmail.com

Reader and author will establish all of the details between themselves. — WT

SBW Underground

by Bill Baldwin

Earlier this year, a few of us discovered we were interested in less “mainstream” literary writing. We started meeting monthly to learn more about such traditions and encourage one another in our own endeavors. All the while other SBW folks have been asking: “What is this Underground Thing?”

Over time we suggested various definitions of “The Underground” (see below) and discussed how “The Underground” connects with our own writing interests.

If your own interests/perspectives veer a bit off the standard fare, you may want to drop by. We currently meet on the third Tuesday each month, at 7:30 pm, at The Coffee Society, 21265 Stevens Creek, Cupertino (in The Oaks, across from De Anza College).

As for “What is The Underground,” here are some possibilities:

It's those writers and artists who may someday become enormously influential—but are unknown today because they are “too different.”

It's the creative minds who either aren't

CWC Around the Bay

These are published meeting locations and times for other CWC branches in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. If you're thinking about attending one of their meetings, be sure to check the website first for details.

Berkeley: 2:00 third Sundays, Oakland Public Library Main Branch. cwc-berkeley.com

Central Coast: 5:30 third Tuesdays, Point Pinos Grill, 77 Asilomar Boulevard, Pacific Grove. centralcoastwriters.org

Fremont Area: 2:00 fourth Saturdays at DeVry University, 6600 Dumbarton Circle, Room 120, Fremont. cwc-fremontareawriters.org

Marin: 2:00 fourth Sundays, Book Passage in Corte Madera. cwcmarinwriters.com

Mendocino Coast: 6:00 third Wednesdays, Mendocino Hotel. writersmendocinocoast.org

Mount Diablo: 11:30 second Saturdays, Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. mtdiablowlriters.org

Napa Valley: 6:30 second Wednesdays, Napa River Inn. napavalleywriters.net

Redwood: 2:30 first Sundays, Flamingo Conference Resort & Spa, 2777 Fourth Street, Santa Rosa. redwoodwriters.org

Sacramento: 11:00 third Saturdays, Cattlemen's Restaurant, 12409 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova. cwcsacramentowriters.org

San Francisco/Peninsula: 10:00 third Saturdays, Belmont Library, 1110 Alameda De Las Pulgas, Belmont. sfpeninsulawriters.com

Tri-Valley: 11:30 third Saturdays, Four Points by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard, Pleasanton. trivalleywriters.com

Children's Book Writers Workshop

We proudly present the fourteenth Oregon Coast Children's Book Writers Workshop in Oceanside, Oregon, July 11 – 15, 2016. The course is available for graduate level credit.

The full-time instructors include five accomplished children's book authors, two full-time children's editors from major houses, and a full-time children's book agent. Check them out on our website. All instructors are immersed in writing, covering all genres, and they'll spend the week giving their best.

The course is not only lectures, but lots and lots (and lots) of one-on-one with instructors everyday. This course really works for all levels of experience.

If you are ambitious to publish a children's book (or simply adore children's books) this is the workshop for you. You can connect directly with authors, editors, and agents. If you are writing a picture book, check out our online course, www.publishpicturebook.com, also available for graduate credit.

Oregon Coast Children's Book Writers Workshop: www.occbww.com — WT

interested in fame or money, or intentionally refuse to commodify or commercialize their work—for whatever reasons.

It's those who create their art for their own satisfaction, not for others. It's those who break the “generally accepted” rules of creation—because those rules don't work for them; or they don't accept the currently popular aesthetic.

It's writers who refuse to become clichés. “Underground” artists may *feel* that they are alone, but they are *not* alone—they have one another. And they have examples of past underground creators to inspire and motivate them.

Pick your favorites! Mine include Van

Gogh, Nietzsche, Dostoyevsky, Poe, Picasso, Wagner, Gertrude Stein, Virginia Woolf, Henry Miller, Walt Whitman, Christopher Isherwood, Kerouac, Ginsberg, ... and many more.

These people inspire us to follow our *own* visions, to find our *own* rules, to write *what we need to write*, not what other people *tell* us to write.

It helps to know that *other* people are struggling with *their own* visions—non-standard, individual; and even though we may all have *different* visions, we can all encourage and support one another!

If the thought of this inspires you, drop by some third Tuesday. — WT

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 11A Our Voices	2 1:30P Mystery Circle 2P Valley Writers	3	4 7:30p SBW Board meeting	5	6 7:30P Open mic B&N Almaden, San Jose	7
8	9 2P Valley Writers 6P SBW General Meeting , Harry's	10	11	12	13	14 Workshop Short Story 8:30 am to 4 pm Michael Bracken
15 Deadline WritersTalk 11A Our Voices	16 2P Valley Writers	17 7:30 PM SBW UNDERGROUND	18	19	20 7:30P Open mic Willow Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave	21
22	23 2P Valley Writers	24 TalkShop 7 PM	25 TalkBooks 7:30PM	26 THANKSGIVING	27	28
29 11A Our Voices	30 2P Valley Writers	November 2015				
Future Flashes						
Holiday party Sunday, December 13						

Ongoing Events

Critique Groups

Our Voices

Meets at Le Boulanger in the Pruneyard in Campbell every other Sunday 10 am. Genres: Fiction, nontechnical nonfiction, memoir. Contact: Dave LaRoche at dalaroche@comcast.net

Valley Writers

Meets at Valley Village Retirement Center, Winchester Blvd. in Santa Clara, Mondays 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Contact: Marjorie Johnson, marjoriej358@comcast.net

Emperor's Mystery Circle

Meets at Emperor Norton's, 7508 Santa Teresa Blvd, San Jose, 1:30 pm., first Mondays. Mystery genre. Contact Pam Oliver-Lyons, polpap@prodigy.net

Your Critique Group

For consideration, send information to newsletter@southbaywriters.com

SBW Recommends ...

If you know of a regularly occurring event for writers, send an email to newsletter@southbaywriters.com.

Open Mics

South Bay Writers Open Mic: Read from your own work, from your favorite authors, or just come to listen, first and third Friday evenings. See calendar for schedule. Contact Bill Baldwin (408) 730-9622 or email WABaldwin@aol.com

Ongoing discussion groups

TalkShop: Discuss topics of interest to writers—challenges, problems, and tips. Meets last Tuesdays, 7 pm. Contact Carole Taub at 777777ps@gmail.com

SBW Underground: Come to exchange ideas on non-mainstream art and writing, past and present. Meets at Coffee Society, Stevens Creek Blvd, across from De Anza, 7:30 pm, third Tuesdays. Contact Bill Baldwin (408) 730-9622 or email WABaldwin@aol.com

See Underground article Page 14

TalkBooks: New SBW discussion group focusing on books written by our SBW members. We will read and discuss books written by SBW members. Meets last Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. For information, send email to newsletter@southbaywriters.

Poetry Readings

Poets@Play: Meets at Markham House History Park, 1650 Senter Rd., San Jose, Second Sundays most months, 1 - 4 pm. poetrycentersanjose.org

Poetry Center San Jose: Meets at Willow Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave., San Jose, Third Thursdays, 7 pm. poetrycentersanjose.org 408-808-3045

Words Drawing Music: Ongoing open mic opportunity at Works San Jose, 365 South Market Street, on second Thursdays, 7 to 9 p.m. Information at workssanjose.org

SF Writers Conference

2016 San Francisco Writers Conference, February 11 - 16, Mark Hopkins Hotel in San Francisco. www.SFWriters.org

Michael Bracken Workshop

Jump start your fiction

8:30 AM, Saturday, November 14
See flyer on Page 7



California Writers Club
South Bay Branch
P.O. Box 3254
Santa Clara, CA 95055
www.southbaywriters.com

MAIL TO

Address Correction Requested

**South Bay Writers
November Regular Meeting
6 p.m. Monday, November 9**

Harry's Hofbrau
390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose

NaNoWriMo

Write Your Novel in a Month

Come to the SBW Write-In on November 9

WritersTalk deadline is always
the 15th of the month.

Regular dinner meetings are
second Mondays 6 – 9 pm



Harry's Hofbrau

From Highway 280, take Saratoga Avenue North.
Harry's is on your right near Stevens Creek Blvd.